R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

According to the present invention as recited in independent claim 14, an apparatus administrating system is provided which comprises: an administrated apparatus located in a first local network and connected to the Internet through a first firewall server of the first local network; an administrating apparatus located in a second local network and connected to the Internet through a second firewall server of the second local network; and a relaying server located outside the first and second local networks and connected to the Internet for enabling the administrated apparatus and the administrating apparatus to indirectly communicate with each other via the Internet.

As recited in claim 14, the administrated apparatus comprises: a transmitting section which transmits trouble type information to the relaying server through the first firewall server and the Internet, an accessing section which accesses the relaying server and obtains restoration work information based on the trouble type information from the relaying server through the first firewall server and the Internet, and a control section which controls the administrated apparatus to conduct an automatic restoration process in accordance with the restoration work information.

As recited in claim 14, moreover, the restoration work information is provided to the relaying server by the administrating apparatus through the second firewall server and the Internet, and the relaying server comprises a memory which stores the trouble type information transmitted from the administrated apparatus.

With the structure of the present invention as recited in independent claim 14, the administrated apparatus is connected to the Internet through a first firewall server, the administrated apparatus transmits trouble type information to the relaying server through the first firewall server and the Internet, and the administrated apparatus accesses the relaying server and obtains restoration work information based on the trouble type information from the relaying server through the first firewall server and the Internet. And the administrated apparatus conducts an automatic restoration process in accordance with the restoration work information.

Significantly, therefore, even though the operations of transmitting trouble type information and obtaining restoration work information are conducted through the Internet, since the present invention provides a structure whereby the administrated apparatus is located in a first local network and connected to the Internet through a first firewall server of the first local network, the operations of the present invention can be conducted

with high security. Accordingly, since a direct connection, through a telephone or ISDN line is not necessary, the apparatus administrating system of the present invention as recited in claim 14 can be constructed inexpensively while still providing high security.

The Examiner asserts that claim 14 is obvious in view of the combination of USP 6,240,456 ("Teng et al"), USP 5,887,216 ("Motoyama") and USP 6,362,870 ("Mui et al").

More specifically, the Examiner contends that printer 50 of Teng et al corresponds to the administrated apparatus of claim 14, that the network client 20 of Teng et al corresponds to the administrating apparatus of claim 14, and that the network server 49 of Teng et al corresponds to the relaying server of claim 14.

It is respectfully pointed out, however, that Teng et al merely discloses a system that allows a network client for sending a job, such as a print job, to a network server, which sends the print job to a printer. That is, it is respectfully submitted that Teng et al does not even remotely relate to communication of trouble type information from an administrated apparatus to a relaying server, or to obtaining restoration work information based on the trouble type information from the relaying server, or to conducting an automatic restoration process in accordance with the restoration work information, in

the manner of claim 14. That is, Teng et al relates to sending a print job, for example, from a network client to a printer via a network server, while the present invention as recited in claim 14, by contrast, relates to conducting an automatic restoration process in an administrated apparatus. And it is respectfully submitted that Teng et al does not even remotely relate to this feature and the corresponding structure of the present invention as recited in independent claim 14.

The Examiner has cited column 8, lines 10-20 and 30-33 of Teng et al with respect to transmitting trouble type information from an administrated apparatus to a relaying server, and the Examiner has cited column 8, lines 39-43 of Teng et al with respect to obtaining restoration work information by an administrated apparatus from a relaying server. It is respectfully pointed out, however, that Teng et al in fact merely discloses that a user of the network client 20 may request information relating to the printer 50, such as "the status of a print job, job queues, printer support, printer properties, etc." When the network client 20 makes such a request, the network server 49 either obtains the requested information from the spooler 74 directly or causes the spooler 74 to poll the printer 50. The network server 49 then creates an HTML page containing the information gathered by the server and transmits the HTML page to the network client 20 to be viewed using an

internet browser. The network client 20 may then be used to issue commands relating to the print job. (See column 7, line 61 to column 8, line 59 of Teng et al).

That is, Teng et al merely discloses that the printer 50 may respond to a question relating to printing from the network server 49, if the printer is capable of bi-directional communication. Teng et al, however, does not disclose, teach or suggest that the printer 50 transmits trouble type information to the network server 49, or that the printer 50 accesses the network server 49 to obtain restoration work information based on the trouble type information.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the system disclosed by Teng et al clearly does not correspond to an apparatus administration system as recited in claim 14, and it is respectfully submitted, in particular, that printer 50 of Teng et al does not have the structure of the administrated apparatus recited in claim 14.

As recognized by the Examiner, moreover, Teng et al does not disclose a network configuration that includes firewalls. For this reason, the Examiner has cited Motoyama to supply the missing teachings of Teng et al.

It is respectfully submitted, however, that there would be no motivation to combine the teachings of Motoyama with Teng et al. More specifically, since Teng et al does not teach a

technique to conduct an automatic restoration process, there is no motivation to apply the network configuration including firewalls of Motoayama to Teng et al in order to conduct an automatic restoration process with high security.

In any event, it is respectfully pointed out that although Motoyama discloses a system including firewalls, Motoyama does not disclose, teach or suggest a relaying server located outside the first and second local networks and connected to the Internet for enabling the administrated apparatus and the administrating apparatus to indirectly communicate with each other via the Internet.

Thus, since Teng et al does not disclose local networks including firewalls, and since Motoyama does not disclose providing a network configuration including a relaying server outside of the local networks (which have the firewalls), even the combination of Teng et al and Motoyama clearly does not disclose, teach or suggest the structure of the present invention as recited in independent claim 14 whereby a relaying server is located outside the first and second local networks, for which the first and second firewall servers are respectively provided.

Still further, it is again respectfully pointed out that Motoyama teaches away from using an internet connection for communication in matters requiring urgent attention, such as when software in a machine must be urgently fixed (see column 9,

lines 50-65). Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine Motoyama with Teng et al to provide a configuration in which restoration work information is obtained via the Internet through a firewall server in the manner recited in claim 14.

Mui et al, moreover, has been cited for the disclosure of a printer that obtains information using a "pull" method (column 9, lines 17-20). It is respectfully submitted, however, Mui et al does not disclose, teach or suggest communication through the Internet and firewalls, or the transmission of trouble type information and obtaining of restoration work information in the manner recited in independent claim 14.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that even if Teng et al, Motoyama and Mui et al were combinable in the manner suggested by the Examiner, the structure of the present invention as recited in independent claim 14 still would not be achieved or rendered obvious.

Independent claims 25 and 28, moreover, recite an administrated apparatus and an administrating apparatus for an apparatus administration system that includes: (i) the administrated apparatus located in a first local network and connected to the Internet through a first firewall server of the first local network, (ii) the administrating apparatus located in a second local network and connected to the Internet through a

second firewall server of the second local network, and (iii) a relaying server located outside of the first and second firewall servers and connected to the Internet for enabling the administrated apparatus and the administrating apparatus to indirectly communicate with each other via the Internet.

And it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 25 and 28 clearly patentably distinguish over Teng et al, Motoyama and Mui et al in a similar manner as claim 14 as explained hereinabove.

Still further, it is noted that USP 6,618,162 ("Wiklof et al") has merely been cited with respect to the features of claims 24 and 30, and it is respectfully submitted that Wiklof et al is no more pertinent to the present invention as recited in independent claims 14, 15 and 28 than Teng et al, Motoyama and Mui et al.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in independent claims 14, 25 and 28, as well as claims 15-24, 26-27 and 29-30 respectively depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguishes over Teng et al, Motoyama, Mui et al and Wiklof et al, taken singly or in any combination under 35 USC 103.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

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